It is expected that the slowdown in current year's growth would be arrested and the growth would pick up as a result of the various measures announced.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के हानि में चल रहे उपक्रमों को बंद किया जाना

36. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया** :

श्री बरजिन्द सिंह:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 22 जून, 1998 के "द आब्जर्वर" में प्रकाशित "पी.एस.यू. इन रेड टू बी क्लोजड़ डाउन" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया हैं:

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने घाटे में चल रही ऐसी औद्योगिक संस्थाओं की पहचान की हैं जिन्हें बंद किए जाने का प्रस्ताव हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो ऐसे एककों के नाम क्या है; और

(घ) इन एककों मे मार्च, 1998 तक कुल कितनी पूंजी का निवेश किया गया था और कितने श्रमिकों को काम पर लगाया गया था?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारी उद्योग विभाग की नौ इकाइंया जिनमें बी.आई.एफ.आर./विनिवेश आयोग, किसी एक स्तर या अन्य स्तर पर इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा हैं कि ये इकाइंया अजैव्य हैं और प्राथमिकता/अंतिम स्तर पर उन्हें बंद करने के बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं। बी.आई.एफ. आर.एक अर्धन्यायिक निकाय हैं।

(ग) और (घ) 31.03.98 की स्थिति के अनुसार ऐसी इकाइयों के नाम, पूंजी निवेश और कर्मचारियों की संख्या को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न हैं।

Progress of Joint Ventures with PSUs

37. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the review of progress of joint venture formation of eleven public sector undertakings with consultants who have given an action plan for the future;

(b) if so, what are the details of the action plan; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) Out of the 48 PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry, 23 units have been identified for joint ventures. Consultants/Merchant Bankers who have been appointed in most cases to locate joint venture partners have also broadly indicated the steps involved in the exercise. Progress is reviewed at various levels and meetings are held with the consultants from time to time with a view to expediting the process.

Welfare schemes for workers in coir industry

38. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Industries and Social Welfare, Government of Kerala has written a letter to him requesting for sanction of a special grant for the successful and satisfactory implementation of various welfare schemes for the benefit of the lakhs of poor workers employed in coir industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In her letter, the Minister of Industries & Social Welfare, Government of Kerala, has requested for a central Government grant of Rs. 5 crores for successful and satisfactory implementation of welfare schemes by the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board (KCWWFB) for the benefit of poor workers employed in the Coir Industry in Kerala. The welfare schemes being implemented by the KCWWFB include payment of old age pension at the enhanced rate of Rs. 100/-, setting up of old age homes and running of a computer centre for training of-the children of the Coir workers.

During 1997-98 no grant could be sanctioned by the Government for the Kerala *Ok* Workers Welfare Fund Board (KCWWFB) because several irregularities had been found in the evaluation conducted by the Coir Board on the performance of the KCWWFB. These irregularities have been